

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Together with your child, look at or make a calendar for the week. **Ask:** *Why do people use calendars?* (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed) List some of your family's activities on the calendar.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Point out the vocabulary words. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate both periods of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about Ordinary Time—a time to grow closer to God and give thanks for the gifts God gives us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look at your calendar and discuss the family activities for which he or she is grateful. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 28

- ▶ Set a timer for one minute. Then ask your child to complete this sentence with as many responses as possible during the time limit: *I am grateful for _____.* Record his or her ideas and then read them aloud.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. **Say:** *We grow closer to God by being aware of and grateful for his many gifts.*
- ▶ Discuss the gifts in the children's drawings. **Ask:** *What gifts has God given you?* Read aloud the activity directions. **Say:** *God has given me the gift of friends, so I am going to draw a picture of my friends.* Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *When you pray, what do you thank God for?*

Art Exploration: Page 217

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a seedling growing from the ground.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the sprout, the soil, and the sun.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ordinary Time is a time to be thankful for everyday miracles, like this sprout growing from a seed into a plant.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 217. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some things that grow?* (trees, grass, flowers, pets, people) **Say:** *During Ordinary Time, God asks us to grow in our faith and in our love for him.*
- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some ways we can grow closer to God?* (praying, attending Mass, showing God's love to others, being grateful for his gifts)
- ▶ Discuss joyful events that happened to both of you recently. Read aloud the directions and help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Together with your child, try yoga poses patterned after God's gifts of animals. Ahead of time, use the Internet to find and learn easy animal yoga poses, such as cat pose, cobra pose, and butterfly pose. Demonstrate each pose for your child and try the poses together. Invite your child to make up poses that conjure the spirit of an animal or a natural object.

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together brainstorm a list of items created by God and make a list. Discuss various items found in church that are created by God, such as flowers and plants, and by people, such as an altar, pictures, and statues.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first sentence. **Say:** *Creation means "all the things made, or created, by God."*
- ▶ Read aloud the next two sentences. **Ask:** *What does God's creation include?* (everything, such as people, the earth, the sun)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. **Say:** *The gifts of Bread and Wine are offered at every Mass. During Ordinary Time we think about these gifts as a reminder that Jesus is with us and helps us grow.*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Special Gifts and invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Green is a symbol that shows growth, life, and hope.* **Ask:** *What are some green items you have seen in church?*

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help out a family member.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.